

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

We claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A catalyst comprising from 0.1 to 20% by weight of rhenium and from 0.05 to 10% by weight of platinum, based on the total mass of the catalyst, on a support, obtainable by a process in which:

a) the optionally pretreated support is treated with a solution of a rhenium compound;

b) dried and heat-treated in a reductive atmosphere at from 80 to 600°C; and

c) impregnated with a solution of a platinum compound and dried again.

2. (Currently Amended) A catalyst ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, wherein the support is selected from the group consisting of: a metal oxide; optionally pretreated activated carbon or a graphitic carbon support; a nitride; a silicide; a carbide; ~~or~~ and a boride.

3. (Currently Amended) A catalyst ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 2, wherein the support is selected from the group consisting of: titanium dioxide; zirconium dioxide; hafnium dioxide; and optionally pretreated activated carbon or a graphitic carbon support.

4. (Currently Amended) A catalyst ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3~~ according to claim 1, wherein the reductive atmosphere comprises at least a portion of at least one gaseous material selected from the group consisting of gaseous ammonia, hydrazine, C₂- to C₆-olefin, carbon monoxide, and/or hydrogen.

5. (Currently Amended) A catalyst ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4~~ according to claim 1, wherein, after step b), the catalyst blank obtained is passivated with an oxygenous gas.

6. (Currently Amended) A catalyst ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5~~according to claim 1, which is activated by using a reducing gas atmosphere or a liquid reducing agent.

7. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing alcohols by catalytically hydrogenating carbonyl compounds to alcohols, which comprises using a catalyst ~~as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6~~according to claim 1.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The process as claimed in~~according to claim 7~~, wherein the carbonyl compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of aldehydes, carboxylic acids or esters, anhydrides, and/or lactones.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The process as claimed in~~according to claim 8~~, wherein the carbonyl compound is selected from the group consisting of maleic acid, glutaric acid, adipic acid, fumaric acid, succinic acid or esters or anhydrides thereof, ~~or~~and gamma-butyrolactone,_; and is hydrogenated to 1,4-butanediol.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The process as claimed in~~according to claim 9~~, wherein the carbonyl compound is selected from the group consisting of adipic acid, 6-hydroxycaproic acid or esters thereof, ~~or~~caprolactone,_; and is hydrogenated to 1,6-hexanediol.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The process as claimed in any of claims 7 to 10according to claim 7, wherein the hydrogenation is carried out in the liquid phase over solid catalysts at a pressure in the range from 20 to 230 bar and a temperature in the range from 80 to 210°C.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The process as claimed in any of claims 7 to 11according to claim 7, wherein the hydrogenation reactor charged with the catalyst is started up under hydrogenation conditions using water or a dilute aqueous solution of the carbonyl compound.

13. (New) The catalyst according to claim 2, wherein the reductive atmosphere comprises at least a portion of at least one gaseous material selected from the group consisting of gaseous ammonia, hydrazine, C₂- to C₆-olefin, carbon monoxide, and hydrogen.

14. (New) The catalyst according to claim 3, wherein the reductive atmosphere comprises at least a portion of at least one gaseous material selected from the group consisting of gaseous ammonia, hydrazine, C₂- to C₆-olefin, carbon monoxide, and hydrogen.

15. (New) The catalyst according to claim 2, wherein, after step b), the catalyst blank obtained is passivated with an oxygenous gas.

16. (New) The catalyst according to claim 3, wherein, after step b), the catalyst blank obtained is passivated with an oxygenous gas.

17. (New) The catalyst according to claim 4, wherein, after step b), the catalyst blank obtained is passivated with an oxygenous gas.

18. (New) The catalyst according to claim 2, which is activated by using a reducing gas atmosphere or a liquid reducing agent.

19. (New) The catalyst according to claim 3, which is activated by using a reducing gas atmosphere or a liquid reducing agent.

20. (New) The catalyst according to claim 4, which is activated by using a reducing gas atmosphere or a liquid reducing agent.